

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JUNE 2020

Highland continues to monitor crisis as town leaders set reopening plans

More than 70 Lincoln Center Fitness Center members headed back to the gym on the first day the elliptical machines, weights, walking track and fitness classes reopened to the public June 1.

Parents also headed to Lincoln Center in large numbers to enroll their youngsters in the ever-popular summer camp.

With some major modifications on cleaning protocols and social distancing and minor changes in scheduling, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Alex Brown was as happy to see residents as they were to see him. “We had a great first day,” Brown said. “Everyone is being careful and respectful of safe social distancing.”

Other changes implemented as Highland gets back on track:

- Virtual fitness classes will continue to protect those who are at-risk. To safeguard children from possible exposure, summer camp is limited to weekly and all-summer campers.
- Public Works is also beginning a return to normal with the garage open for large items and a shred day already under its belt.
- The council has determined return-to-work plans for Town Hall staff, which includes daily temperature checks, work-from-home options and mask-wearing, except when individuals are at their personal work station.

INSIDE: More about reopening plans on the back page. >>

BACK  ON  TRACK
HIGHLAND



[JUNE UPDATE]

The Town of Highland – in keeping with Gov. Eric Holcomb’s Back On Track initiative – is planning a soft reopening June 15.

Town Hall will conduct business by appointment only. All residents are strongly encouraged to wear masks and wait in your car until called inside for your appointment.

Residents are encouraged to continue paying utility bills online or via drop box.

WHAT’S NEXT?

If health indicators remain positive, we will move to Stage 4. Learn more at BackOnTrack.in.gov.

Town pumps work hard during intense storms, heavy rains

Three major storms – one each over three weeks in May – and just like that, Highland’s average monthly rainfall doubled.

Public Works Director John Bach said it wasn’t the amount of rain that caused headaches for residents whose basements took on water: It was the intensity of the storms that hit with a vengeance.

“The town’s pumps worked precisely as they were intended to,” Bach said. “When 2.67 inches of rain falls in just 35 minutes at the North 5th Street pump station, we know there will be street flooding and other issues until the system catches up.”

Since 2008, the Sanitary District has completed dozens of projects that include: adding massive generators

that take over whenever there is a power outage, working with homeowners to disconnect illegal sump pumps and installing cured-in-place pipe lining to reduce storm water entering the sanitary system.

INSIDE: Turn the page to learn more about what happens when it rains and the latest sanitary projects. >>

BACK ON TRACK: HIGHLAND

[2020 CENSUS]

Census 2020 deadlines have been extended amid the Covid-19 crisis. Residents have until October 31 to submit information. If you do not respond, census workers will begin visiting Highland households in August. For those who do not want an in-person visit this summer or fall, it is important to respond by phone, mail or online as soon as possible. Questions? Email Highland's Complete Count Committee at lryskamp@highland.in.gov.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

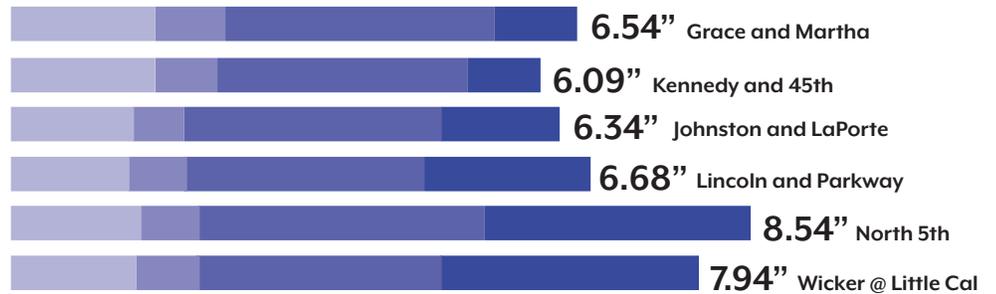
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[STEMMING THE TIDE]

Over four days — May 14, May 15, 17, and 23 — parts of Highland got pelted with 80 percent of the rainfall the town typically gets during the entire month of June. On May 23, nearly three inches of rain fell in just 27 minutes.



Source: Highland Public Works

New safeguards protect Highland residents

Since 2008, the Highland Sanitary District has spent more than \$10 million upgrading the stormwater and sanitary sewer systems to protect residents during heavy storms.

Although no sewer system can handle every storm, Public Works Director John Bach said improvements and new safeguards are protecting residents better than ever before.

"The total needed to complete every project is \$75 million," Bach said. "That's the reason we complete projects every construction season."

[IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS]

When Highland began upgrading, even a moderate rainfall would allow as much as 7 million gallons of stormwater to overwhelm the sanitary sewer system. Today:

- Computer monitoring allows the system to be viewed on a lap top.
- Disconnecting more than 1,000 sump pumps and gutters reduces rain water entering the system.
- Relining miles of leaky pipes to keep rainwater out of the sanitary system.

Highland library now offering curbside service

Aching to check out new books and music? How about a first-run movie?

Look no further than our very own Highland branch of the Lake County Public Library.

While town residents were sheltering in place, staff remained busy.

They upped the number of new materials ready for patrons to borrow once the library reopened and worked out the particulars of curbside service, which is now available from the parking lot north of the library.

Outside WiFi has also been put into place for patrons' convenience.

In addition to library materials that are accessible through curbside pickup, Branch Manager Linda Johnsen said a growing number of electronic materials are also available.

"We encourage residents to browse our website to see what's new," she said. "You can put items on hold and pick them up at your convenience."

INFO: Visit www.lcpl.in.org/curbside for curbside hours and details.

BACK ON TRACK: HIGHLAND

[BACK ON TRACK STAGE 3]

Highland and communities throughout Lake County began Stage 3 on June 1. “Let’s safely open Indiana’s economy and remain vigilant about protecting our health and well-being,” Gov. Eric Holcomb said.

Here’s a look at Stage 3 guidelines for all Hoosiers:

- Residents 65 and older and those with high-risk medical conditions should limit exposure at work and in the community.
- Continue remote work when possible.
- Face coverings are recommended.
- Social gatherings of up to 100 people may take place following the CDC social distancing guidelines. The coronavirus is often spread among groups of people who are in close contact in a confined space for an extended period of time. This limit applies to wedding receptions, parties and other events where people are in close physical contact for extended periods of time.
- Assisted living facilities and nursing homes remain closed to visitors.

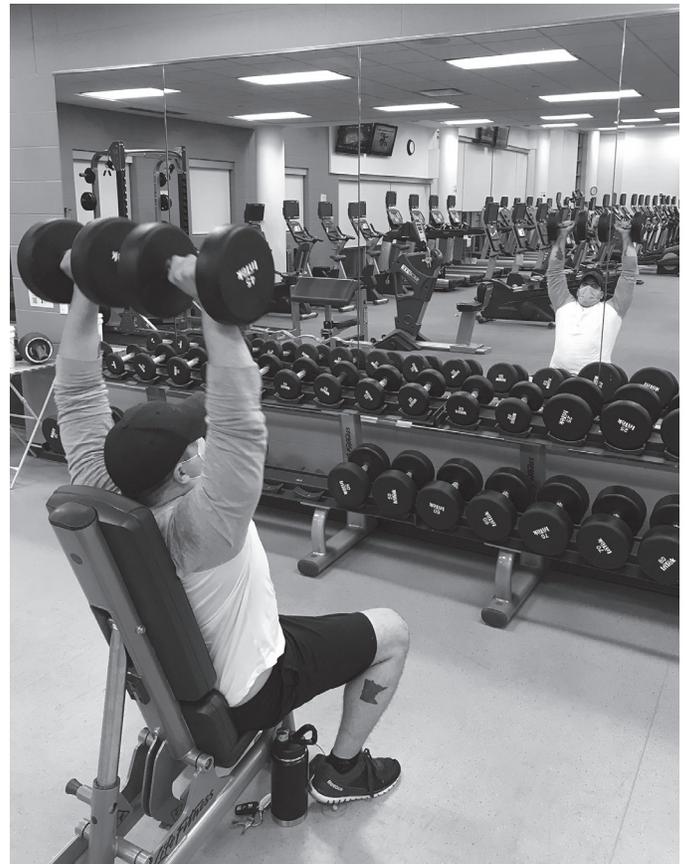
WHAT’S OPEN

- Retail stores and malls may move to 75 percent capacity while maintaining social distancing. Mall food courts and sitting areas are limited to 50 percent capacity.
- Gyms, fitness centers, yoga studios, martial arts studios and like facilities may open with restrictions.
- Community tennis courts, soccer and baseball fields, YMCA programs, and similar facilities may open with social guidelines in place.
- Community recreational youth and adult sports may resume practices and conditioning, adhering to social gathering and social distancing guidelines.

WHAT REMAINS CLOSED

- Playgrounds and overnight youth camps
- Bars, nightclubs, cultural and entertainment venues
- Amusement parks, water parks and tourism sites
- Festivals, fairs and parades
- Movie theaters

INFO: Visit the town website – highland.in.gov – for a comprehensive guide to Stage 3 activities and how Highland departments plan on reopening.



[HIGHLAND PARKS & RECREATION]

Lincoln Community Center reopened June 1 to dozens of residents eager to get back into a workout routine.

“I’m really happy to be back,” Fitness member Nate Bartlett said (above). “I’ve been working out at home, but it just isn’t the same. It’s nice to see steps have been taken to ensure patron safety – employees wear masks, extra cleaning measures and equipment spread out.”

Here’s a look at the June reopening schedule:

JUNE 1: Lincoln Community and Fitness centers reopen following CDC guidelines. The fieldhouse is open for walking only. Classrooms and classes reopen at 50 percent capacity with a max of 100 people per room. Tennis courts, the skate park and similar facilities open. Picnic shelters can be used. Outdoor sports fields open for practices only and one team per field.

JUNE 8: Summer Day Camp begins.

JUNE 21: If Highland moves to Stage 4, community sports leagues may resume. Outdoor concerts and movies in the park may be held. Playgrounds and outdoor basketball courts may open.